

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A bending press comprising:

- a bottom panel;
- a top panel;

5 one of the panels being movable vertically relative to the other;

- N bending-tool clamps, each clamp being mounted to pivot about a common axis; and

10 · means for causing said clamps to pivot about said axis;

wherein said means for causing the clamps to pivot comprise:

- a plurality of actuator assemblies each suitable for taking up two states;

15 · a plurality of transmission means for transmitting the state of each actuator assembly to a plurality of adjacent clamps of number smaller than N, in such a manner that each clamp is associated with a single actuator assembly; and

20 · means for separately controlling the state of each actuator assembly between a first state which brings the clamps associated with the actuator assembly into a position for clamping a bending tool, and a second state which brings the clamps associated with the actuator assembly into a position for removing said bending tools.

2. A bending press according to claim 1, wherein:

said bottom panel is stationary and said top panel is vertically movable;

30 the press further comprises N intermediate pieces rigidly fixed to said top panel;

each clamp is mounted facing an intermediate piece; and

35 the means for causing the clamps to pivot further comprise:

- N clamp pivot mechanisms, each mechanism being associated with one clamp and one intermediate piece, each mechanism presenting a control portion;

- a plurality of link means for interconnecting the control portions of n mechanisms associated with n adjacent clamps, where n is an integer lying in the range $1 \leq n < N$; and

- a plurality of transmission means for mechanically connecting each actuator assembly to a link means.

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3. A bending press according to claim 2, wherein each clamp pivoting mechanism comprises two pivot assemblies mounted respectively at the two ends of the intermediate piece associated with the clamp, each pivot assembly comprising a first lever forming said control portion.

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4. A bending press according to claim 3, wherein said link means comprise $2n$ second levers, each second lever being hinged at a first end to the end of a first lever, and means for interconnecting the second ends of the second levers.

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5. A bending press according to claim 2, wherein each actuator means comprises at least one actuator whose cylinder is secured to the top panel and having a rod whose end is connected to a link means.

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6. A bending press according to claim 5, wherein each actuator means comprises two actuators, each actuator being connected to one end of said link means.

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